Mustangs Next Foe For Aroused Owls

By CHUCK YINLING

Gregory Gym in Austin has somehow through the years acquired for itself the reputation of being the friendliest place in the world for basketball teams opposing the orange and white. Perhaps this reputation has been nourished by the fact that the Longhorns have lost some of their old ball game there in the past two years, and the Rice Owls have not won a game at the_jux and continue their once-game winning streak over the Horns.

Accordingly, they set upon the Steers like men with a suicidal mission. Facing them, and proceeded to score the points off (well, nearly) some 5600 Texas supporters.

Holding a substantial seven-point lead over the Longhorns in the closing minutes of the game, the Birds were gynematically fired to hold on to the ball and the lead and pull out a major upset. The Steers kept narrowing the spread, but with Rice holding the ball and the long end of a 79-75 score, things were looking pretty dim for the Tonteaps.

ENTER JACK DUGAN, a soph who didn’t even play frosh ball last year, passing it up in extramurals. The scoreboard clock, which had been moving agonizingly slow for the last 25 minutes, read 1:25 to go as Mr. Dugan intercepted a Steve Galloway pass, raced down the court and made the layup to tie the game. Finished by Jim Fox, Dugan added a free throw to put the Steers ahead for the first time in some fifteen minutes.

About two dozen or so Rice fans groaned while the rest of the stands were gripped in a mad, hysterical frenzy; it was all of a sudden that clock started to move. There was barely time for a quick discussion among the Texas free-throws before it was all over and the scoreboard read Texas 81, Rice 79. Some Rice fans, a convincingly blue-clad contingent had the feeling that they’d just been robbed. Chalk one more up for Gregory Gym.

THERE WAS SOME confusion when the official scorer had Rice winning 79-78, but fortunately they found the error and the score prevailed. To complete the evening, the bus broke down and had to be repaired before the team could get home. Some days it just doesn’t pay to get out of bed.

However, several players started in the losing effort. Mike Maroney tallied 26 points and 11 rebounds, while Olip Shipley and Earl Bynum were both deadly from the outside corner, hit for 16 and Jim Fox added 16. Shipley also led the first-half scoring, Mr. Almanza, to 2 points.

However, AT’s teammates took up the slack as Donnie Lauter scored 21, and Wayne Clark and Butch Skette each had 16. Not to mention the uncertain something added by such things as yell to the the red headlights, bouncing ball and paper cups covering the floor.

The loss, coupled with a earlier 65-58 defeat at the hands of Texas A&M, gave the Owls a 4-7 record in league action. However, the Aggies were all but eliminated from contention as they fell to SMU while lender Tech continued its winning ways.

TIGHTEN THE OWLS host SMU, a team which had its ups and downs but is capable of beating anybody on a hot night. Take it from me, Frankie’s ‘circus’ is tired of dropping these close decisions and is not going to take kindly to another. SMU may have a few surprises in store for them tonight—don’t miss it!